

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6161

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INFO JCS WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 36160, B. SANTO DOMINGO 791

1. THE FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO PARA 6 OF REF A.

2. IN LIGHT OF LIMITED AVAILABLE US RESOURCES, THE MODEST PROGRAM OF DOLS 1 MILLION FOR CREDIT ASSISTANCE AND DOLS 500,000 FOR TRAINING PROPOSED FOR THE DR IN FY 77 APPEARS TO BE SUITED TO ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS IN THIS COUNTRY DURING THAT TIME PERIOD AND SUPPORTIVE OF US OBJECTIVES HERE. WHILE THE PROPOSED PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MINIMAL LEVEL OF DOLS 100,000 OF GRANT MATERIAL AID RECOMMENDED IN LAST YEAR'S CASP TO FUND NEEDED COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS, THIS NOT A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT IN VIEW OF OUR OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING GREATER DOMINICAN SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

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3. WITH THE TERMINATION OF MAP-M IN FY 77, THE NEED FOR MATERIEL

SUPPORT THROUGH FMS CASH AND CREDIT SALES BECOMES ALL THE GREATER. THE DR MANUFACTURERS NO MAJOR END ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT THAT CAN BE USED BY THE ARMED FORCES AND, AS NOTED REF B, THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION OF THE DR IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN TIGHT FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE PROGRAMMED DOLS 1 MILLION OF CREDIT WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET ALL THE DR'S MAJOR REQUIREMENTS BUT IT WILL PROVIDE A KEY INCREMENT TO HELP OVERCOME DEFICIENCIES IN THE MOST CIRITICAL SECTOR OF DOMINICAN COUNTERINSURGENCY CAPABILITIES, I.E. MOBILITY. THE AIR TRANSPORT ASSETS OF THE DR NOW CONSIST OF WWII AIRCRAFT AND OBSOLETE OH-6 HELICOPTERS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY DEADLINED. MOBILITY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN FURTHER EXACERBATED BY SHORTAGES OF TRUCKS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE MAP-M WHICH HAS BEEN TERMINATED EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED. THE PROGRAMMED DOLS 1 MILLION CREDIT IS TO BE APPLIED TO PURCHASE OF ONE OF ABOUT 4 UH-1H HELICOPTER PACKAGES WHICH THE DR IS PLANNING TO ACQUIRE BY FY 77. WITHOUT SUCH CREDIT (ALONG WITH THAT PROGRAMMED IN FY 76), THE GODR WOULD BE OBLIGED TO POSTPONE ACQUISITION OF CRITICALLY NEEDED HELICOPTERS OR DIVERT SCARCE RESOURCES FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NEITHER OF THESE ALTERNATIVES WOULD MAKE SENSE IN LIGHT OF THE US INTEREST IN PROMOTING STABILITY IN THIS COUNTRY AND OF THE APPLICATION OF US RESOURCES THROUGH USAID PROGRAMS TO FURTHER THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IT IS ALSO RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT THE DR WILL BE OBLIGED TO USE ITS OWN RESOURCES FOR THE PURCHASES FROM THE US OF PATROL CRAFT WHICH ARE NOW UNDER NEGOTIATION. THESE ITEMS ARE ALSO BADLY NEEDED TO IMPROVE DOMINICAN COASTAL DEFENSE AND COUNTERINSURGENCY CAPABILITIES.

3. THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF CURRENT USAID ASSISTANCE TO THE DR ARE A LOAN OF DOLS 12 MILLION CONCLUDED IN 1974 AS PART OF A DOLS 23 MILLION PROGRAM TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND A LOAN OF DOLS 4.8 MILLION CONCLUDED IN 1975 AS PART OF AN DOLS 11.7 MILLION HEALTH SECTOR PROGRAM. AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 12-15 MILLION AGRICULTURAL SECTOR LOAN IS BEING PROPOSED FOR FY 76 AND FURTHER USAID INPUTS ARE ANTICIPATED IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS TO SUPPORT THE US INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR SPECIFIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE DR HAS RELIED VIRTUALLY

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EXCLUSIVELY ON THE US FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE THE LEVEL OF PREVIOUS YEARS. BARRING SIGNIFICANT INFLATION, A PROGRAM OF DOLS 500,000 WOULD BE ABOUT THE RIGHT MAGNITUDE TO FUND TRAINING OF SELECTED DOMINICAN MILITARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE US INTEREST IN FURTHERING PROFESSIONALISM AND INSTITUTIONALISM IN THE DOMINICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND

STRENGTHENING US INFLUENCE AMONG THE DOMINICAN MILITARY WHO PLAY A PRIMARY ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY AND ITS PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION. WHILE THE DR ITSELF CAN PROVIDE TRAINING IN GENERAL MILITARY SUBJECTS, CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL COMMAND AND STAFF TRAINING. INCLUDED IN THE ON GOING MAP-T IS TECHNICAL TRAINING RELATED TO THE PLANNED PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS.

5. US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, IN ADDITION TO RAISING THE LEVEL OF COMMAND, STAFF AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY, HAVE PROMOTED, AND I EXPECT WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE, THE CLOSE TIES OF THE DOMINICAN AND US MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS, THE FAVORABLE ATTITUDES OF DOMINICAN MILITARY LEADERS TOWARD THE US AND THEIR IDENTIFICATION WITH US INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES. THIS IN TURN HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DR AND THE US IN BILATERAL SECTORS AND ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.
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